

[PRICE \$2] PER MONTH

should be sent to the Company's Office
 Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector
 Customs at San Francisco.
 For further information as to Passage and
 Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company,
 c/o 304, Queen's Road Central.
 O. D. HARMAN, Agent.
 Hongkong, 11th August, 1938.

Co. | Hongkong, 11th May, 1867. | 120

EXTRACT.

THE CHILD SEY.

They called him Stenno—young Stenno. He was a real Paris boy, young and pale, perhaps 10 and perhaps 15 years old—for with these things you can never tell. His mother was dead and his father, formerly a soldier in the marine, was the guardian of a square in the Quartier du Temple. Every body knew Father Stenno and loved him—babies, nurses, poor women and the old ladies, with their camptools—in fact, the whole of that part of Paris which makes a refuge from passing carriages in these flower plots surrounded by side walls. Every body knew what a pleasant, sympathetic smile the old fellow had behind his bristling moustache, both the terror of the dogs and loafers, and they also knew that to call up that smile they had but to ask—

"How is the little boy to-day?"

How old Father Stenno loved that boy! He felt so happy when the little fellow came for him in the evening after school, and they walked down the alleys hand in hand, stopping before each bench to greet the regular visitors and answer their polite questions.

Unfortunately the siege changed all this. Father Stenno's square was closed, and petroleum was stored there; so the poor old man, ever on the watch, and not allowed to smoke, passed his life wandering alone among the deserted, either retired shrubs.

He could not see his son until late at night, at home, and you should have heard them talk about the Prussians and see his moustache bristle up fiercely! Young Stenno did not complain much of his new life.

You see a siege is lots of fun for the boys; school is closed; no more examinations now; every day is a holiday, and the streets are like a fair.

The child used to stay out until nightfall, running about everywhere. He followed the companies of his warlike friends, and they picked out those that had the best hand. Young Stenno was well up on this subject, and he could tell you why the hand of the Ninety-sixth was poor and why that of the Fifty-fifth was so good. Then again he watched mobile drill.

Besides these amusements there were the waiting processions, which formed before the doors of the butchers and bakers, in the dark winter mornings, when the lights were all out, and he could stand up in the line like a soldier, with his hands under his arms, and his feet in the slush and water; here he made acquaintances and talked politics, and, as he was the son of Mr. Stenno, everybody asked his opinion. But what was most fun was pitching pennies, and that famous game of "galoches," which the Breton militia had brought into fashion during the siege.

When you could not find young Stenno, either on the ramparts or at the baker's, he was pretty sure to be at the game of "galoches," on the square du Chateau d'Eau. He could not play, of course—that cost too much—but he looked on, and opened the biggest, greediest eyes in the world.

There was one fellow in the crowd, a snoot, whom he admired especially, he only had dollar chips and when he ran you could hear the silver jingle in his pockets.

One day as he was picking up a coin which had rolled away and stopped just at young Stenno's feet, the big fellow said to him in a low voice: "It makes you squint, does it? Well, if you want to know, I'll tell you where you can get some."

When the game was over, he led him to a corner of the square and proposed to him to go with him and sell newspapers to the Prussians; he got 30 francs a trip. Stenno refused at first and was highly indignant. For three days he hung his head, and then he said—what awful days those three were! He could not eat or sleep. At night he dreamed of piles of galoches at the foot of his bed, and of shining dollars, slipping along on their faces.

The temptation was too strong, and on the fourth day he went to the corner of the square, saw the big fellow, and allowed himself to be talked over.

One sunny morning they started out, each with a cloth bag slung across his shoulder, and with the newspapers hidden under his blouse. It was hardly light when they reached the Flandre gate. The big boy took him by the hand and led him to a house, where good-humored fat old fellow with a red nose—and said to him in a whispering voice—

"Kind sir, do let us pass, please sir, mother's ill and father's dead, and my young brother and I want to get out into the field and try to find some potatoes."

He was actually crying. Stenno, ashamed of himself, hung his head. The old fellow looked at them a moment, then down the solitary white road.

"Pass, then, quickly," he said, standing aside, and they found themselves on the road to Aubervilliers. How the big fellow laughed!

Indistinctly, as in a dream, young Stenno noticed the factories that rose up like barracks and—garnished with wet rags, and the high chimneys that pierced the fog and threw up their empty, broken walls towards the clouds. Here and there a gaunt, hooded figure scanning the horizon through their glass; little tents soaked with thawing snow, before which the campfires were dying.

The big fellow knew the road well, and where to cut across the fields to avoid the pickets; still, notwithstanding these precautions, they fell upon an outpost of sharpshooters, wrapped in their short cloaks and huddled up in a ditch half full of water, that runs along the railroad track of Soissons.

Here the big fellow repeated his tale in vain; Stenno would not believe him, and he told him, he stood there complaining of an old sergeant stepped out of the crossing keeper's house; his hair was white, and with his wrinkles he looked somewhat like Father Stenno.

"Come, come boys, don't stand there crying," he said to the children; "they'll let you through after your potatoes, but just come in here and get warm. That youngster looks fresh."

Alas! Young Stenno was trembling all over, not with cold, but with shame and fear. Inside they found a few soldiers crouched around a dying fire—a real soldier's fire, as they say—in the flame of which they were to thaw some biscuits on the point of a stick. They moved up close to the fire, and the children, and gave them a little coffee and a drop of brandy. While they were drinking an officer called out to the sergeant from the door, said a few words to him and hurried off.

The sergeant returned in high glee. "Boys," he said, "grog all round us tonight! We have got the password of the Prussians, and this time I think we'll take the Bourget away from them."

There was a burst of applause, and the men began to dance and to sing, while some of them polished up their bayonets. Taking advantage of this confusion, the children escaped.

Beyond the trench they struck the plain, at the end of which loomed up a long white wall, broken by loopholes. They waited straight for the wall, stopping at every step to look, as though they were picking up potatoes.

"Let us go home—don't let us go on," young Stenno kept saying. The other merely shrugged his shoulders and kept on advancing. Suddenly they heard the click of a gun being cocked.

"Lie down!" cried the elder, throwing himself on the ground.

As he lay there he whistled—and another whistle answered over the snow. The other advanced, slowly creeping on all fours. On a level with the ground, and just before the wall, a yellow moustache appeared under a grey cap. The big boy jumped into the ditch, and the child followed him.

"That is my brother," he said, pointing to his companion.

The boy Stenno was so small that the Prussian began to laugh as he looked at him, and seized him in his arms to lift him up to the breach in the wall, on the other side of which rose heavy, barren embankments, on tall, black trunks, and black holes in the snow, in each of which you just saw the same grey cap and the same yellow moustache that laughed as the boys passed.

In one corner stood the gardener's house with two trunks for easements. The lower floor was full of soldiers playing cards, while some were coming a step over a large fire. It smelt so good of cabbage andlard—that a difference between that and the sharpshooters' camp! Upstairs the officers were playing the piano and uncorking champagne, and gave a joyful cheer as the boys entered. They gave their papers and the men began to give them the good and bad news. Most of the officers looked like proud, force men, but the big fellow's slang and his caustic, monkeyish manners seemed to amuse them vastly. They laughingly repeated the words after him, taking a curious delight in wallowing in the mud which he brought them from Paris.

Young Stenno would have liked to say something, too, so as to show them that he was no fool, either, but something embarrassed him. A little to one side, and facing him, sat a Prussian older than the rest, and more serious looking. He was reading, or pretending to read, for he never took his eyes off the boy, and there was something of tenderness and something of reproach in his look, as though he were thinking of his own son, just about Stenno's age, and were saying to himself—

"I had rather die than have my boy do such a thing."

And young Stenno felt as though a hand was placed upon his heart and kept it from beating. To forget this feeling he began to look at the Prussian, and he noticed that he was turning round. He could hear indistinctly how his comrade was laughing at the National Guard and at their awkward drill, much to the amusement of the listeners, or how he imitated a false alarm, the turning out at night and the rush for the ramparts. After a while the big fellow looked at him, and he saw that the officers grew more serious as they drew nearer. The wretch was warning them against the attack of the sharpshooters. This time young Stenno could not stand it, and, suddenly sobbing, he cried out, "I won't have that now; none of that."

But the big fellow only laughed and went on, before he was through all the officers had drawn around him. One of them, pointing to the door, said to the boys: "Get out of here!"

And they began to talk among themselves very quickly in German. The bigger boy stalked out proud as a king, and rattling his money. Stenno passed, bawling his head off, and he passed the Prussian whose gaze had embarrassed him, so he heard him say in a sad tone of voice:—"A past time; a past time," and it brought the tears to his eyes.

Once out in the plain, the boys began to run quickly towards home. Their bag was full of potatoes, which the Prussian had given them, and so they passed the Prussian's trench without a hitch. Here they were getting ready for the night attack.

Troops kept coming in silently and forming behind the walls. The old sergeant was there, looking happy and busily placing his hands. He noticed the children as they passed, and he smiled at them kindly, and he was on the point of calling out to them:—"Don't go there; we have betrayed you!"

But his companion had warned him. "If you speak we shall be shot," and so fear kept them silent. At last they reached the house to which they entered an abandoned house to divide up the money, and truth obliged me to own that the division was a fair one, and that when young Stenno heard the crows jingling in his pockets and thought of the many games of "galoches" he should be able to play, his crime no longer seemed such a heavy burden.

As soon as he was alone, however, he began to suffer misery; the big fellow had let him as soon as they had passed the gates, and then the crows in his pocket began to grow heavier and heavier, and the hand that was clutching his heart tightened its grasp.

Paris seemed changed; the people in the great boulevards at him were suspiciously, as if they knew where he had been, and he kept hearing the word "spy" in the noise of the wheels and in the rolling of the drums the boys were practicing on along the canal embankment. He reached home at last and went to his room at once, thankful that his father had not come home yet. The crows that seemed so heavy to him he hid under his pillow.

Either Stenno had never been so good or so jolly as that evening when he came home. The news from the provinces was good and prospects looked more cheerful. While he was eating supper the old soldier kept looking up at us, and that hung from a nail in the wall, and said to his boy with a good-natured laugh—

"Hey, little man, how you would go for those Prussians if you were big enough."

About 8 o'clock they heard the guns booming.

"That is at Aubervilliers. They are fighting at the Bourget," said the old fellow, who knew all the forts by heart. Young Stenno went to his room and went up to bed, saying he felt tired, but he could not get to sleep—and the guns kept on booming. He fancied that he could see the sharpshooters going out into the night, so as to surprise themselves. He remembered the sergeant who had smiled at him, and he fancied he saw him stretched out in the snow and a number of others with him. The price of all this blood was just there below his pillow—and he, the son of Mr. Stenno, the son of a soldier! Ah! the tears were choking him. In the next room he heard his father walking up and down and then open the window. On the square below they were beating to arms, a entire battalion was forming, ready to start. It was really a serious battle; he could not keep back his sob.

"What is the matter?" asked Father Stenno, as he opened the door. The child could not stand it any longer; he jumped out of bed and threw himself at his father's feet, and as he did so the crows rolled out on the floor.

"What is that?" asked the old man, trembling all over. "Have you stolen?"

And without drawing breath young Stenno told him how he had gone to the Prussians and what he had done there. As he talked his heart grew lighter; it was a relief to accuse himself.

Father Stenno listened and his brow grew darker. When it was all told he laid his face in his hands and wept.

"Father, father," the child began.

The old man thrust him aside without a word and picked up the money. "Is it all here?" he asked.

Young Stenno nodded. The old fellow then took down his gun and cartridge box and put the money into his pocket.

"Very well," he said, "I am going to give it back to them." And without another word, without turning round again, he went down and marched away into the night with the militiamen who were just starting. He never was seen again—translated from the French of Daudet.

FOR SALE.

CALIFORNIAN FLOUR.
This Finest FLOUR in the Market is STAIN & CO.'S well known, best roller made "DRAGON EXTRA."
STRENGTH AND COLOR UNPARALLELED.
TRY IT.

TRICHOIDE COTTAGE PIANOS.
COMPLETE IRON FRAMING AND EXPERT METAL TUNING.
With all the latest improvements.
PRICE FROM \$240.
Payable also by Monthly Installments from \$5 Dollars, if required.
HONGKONG, 1st January, 1886. (1772)

FOR SALE.
W. POWELL & Co.
HONGKONG, 1st January, 1886. (1772)

CHAMPAGNE, 1880, WHITE SHARK.
\$21.00 per case of 1 dozen quarts.
\$22.00 per case of 2 dozen quarts.
PAUL DUBOIS & Co.
CLARET, GRAND VIN LOUVEILLE.
\$18.00 per case of 1 dozen quarts.
\$19.00 per case of 2 dozen quarts.
\$20.00 per case of 3 dozen quarts.
\$21.00 per case of 4 dozen quarts.
\$22.00 per case of 5 dozen quarts.
\$23.00 per case of 6 dozen quarts.
\$24.00 per case of 7 dozen quarts.
\$25.00 per case of 8 dozen quarts.
\$26.00 per case of 9 dozen quarts.
\$27.00 per case of 10 dozen quarts.
\$28.00 per case of 11 dozen quarts.
\$29.00 per case of 12 dozen quarts.
\$30.00 per case of 13 dozen quarts.
\$31.00 per case of 14 dozen quarts.
\$32.00 per case of 15 dozen quarts.
\$33.00 per case of 16 dozen quarts.
\$34.00 per case of 17 dozen quarts.
\$35.00 per case of 18 dozen quarts.
\$36.00 per case of 19 dozen quarts.
\$37.00 per case of 20 dozen quarts.
\$38.00 per case of 21 dozen quarts.
\$39.00 per case of 22 dozen quarts.
\$40.00 per case of 23 dozen quarts.
\$41.00 per case of 24 dozen quarts.
\$42.00 per case of 25 dozen quarts.
\$43.00 per case of 26 dozen quarts.
\$44.00 per case of 27 dozen quarts.
\$45.00 per case of 28 dozen quarts.
\$46.00 per case of 29 dozen quarts.
\$47.00 per case of 30 dozen quarts.
\$48.00 per case of 31 dozen quarts.
\$49.00 per case of 32 dozen quarts.
\$50.00 per case of 33 dozen quarts.
\$51.00 per case of 34 dozen quarts.
\$52.00 per case of 35 dozen quarts.
\$53.00 per case of 36 dozen quarts.
\$54.00 per case of 37 dozen quarts.
\$55.00 per case of 38 dozen quarts.
\$56.00 per case of 39 dozen quarts.
\$57.00 per case of 40 dozen quarts.
\$58.00 per case of 41 dozen quarts.
\$59.00 per case of 42 dozen quarts.
\$60.00 per case of 43 dozen quarts.
\$61.00 per case of 44 dozen quarts.
\$62.00 per case of 45 dozen quarts.
\$63.00 per case of 46 dozen quarts.
\$64.00 per case of 47 dozen quarts.
\$65.00 per case of 48 dozen quarts.
\$66.00 per case of 49 dozen quarts.
\$67.00 per case of 50 dozen quarts.
\$68.00 per case of 51 dozen quarts.
\$69.00 per case of 52 dozen quarts.
\$70.00 per case of 53 dozen quarts.
\$71.00 per case of 54 dozen quarts.
\$72.00 per case of 55 dozen quarts.
\$73.00 per case of 56 dozen quarts.
\$74.00 per case of 57 dozen quarts.
\$75.00 per case of 58 dozen quarts.
\$76.00 per case of 59 dozen quarts.
\$77.00 per case of 60 dozen quarts.
\$78.00 per case of 61 dozen quarts.
\$79.00 per case of 62 dozen quarts.
\$80.00 per case of 63 dozen quarts.
\$81.00 per case of 64 dozen quarts.
\$82.00 per case of 65 dozen quarts.
\$83.00 per case of 66 dozen quarts.
\$84.00 per case of 67 dozen quarts.
\$85.00 per case of 68 dozen quarts.
\$86.00 per case of 69 dozen quarts.
\$87.00 per case of 70 dozen quarts.
\$88.00 per case of 71 dozen quarts.
\$89.00 per case of 72 dozen quarts.
\$90.00 per case of 73 dozen quarts.
\$91.00 per case of 74 dozen quarts.
\$92.00 per case of 75 dozen quarts.
\$93.00 per case of 76 dozen quarts.
\$94.00 per case of 77 dozen quarts.
\$95.00 per case of 78 dozen quarts.
\$96.00 per case of 79 dozen quarts.
\$97.00 per case of 80 dozen quarts.
\$98.00 per case of 81 dozen quarts.
\$99.00 per case of 82 dozen quarts.
\$100.00 per case of 83 dozen quarts.
\$101.00 per case of 84 dozen quarts.
\$102.00 per case of 85 dozen quarts.
\$103.00 per case of 86 dozen quarts.
\$104.00 per case of 87 dozen quarts.
\$105.00 per case of 88 dozen quarts.
\$106.00 per case of 89 dozen quarts.
\$107.00 per case of 90 dozen quarts.
\$108.00 per case of 91 dozen quarts.
\$109.00 per case of 92 dozen quarts.
\$110.00 per case of 93 dozen quarts.
\$111.00 per case of 94 dozen quarts.
\$112.00 per case of 95 dozen quarts.
\$113.00 per case of 96 dozen quarts.
\$114.00 per case of 97 dozen quarts.
\$115.00 per case of 98 dozen quarts.
\$116.00 per case of 99 dozen quarts.
\$117.00 per case of 100 dozen quarts.

JOHN WALKER & SONS.
OLD HIGHLAND WHISKY.
\$8.00 per case of 1 dozen quarts.
\$9.00 per case of 2 dozen quarts.
\$10.00 per case of 3 dozen quarts.
\$11.00 per case of 4 dozen quarts.
\$12.00 per case of 5 dozen quarts.
\$13.00 per case of 6 dozen quarts.
\$14.00 per case of 7 dozen quarts.
\$15.00 per case of 8 dozen quarts.
\$16.00 per case of 9 dozen quarts.
\$17.00 per case of 10 dozen quarts.
\$18.00 per case of 11 dozen quarts.
\$19.00 per case of 12 dozen quarts.
\$20.00 per case of 13 dozen quarts.
\$21.00 per case of 14 dozen quarts.
\$22.00 per case of 15 dozen quarts.
\$23.00 per case of 16 dozen quarts.
\$24.00 per case of 17 dozen quarts.
\$25.00 per case of 18 dozen quarts.
\$26.00 per case of 19 dozen quarts.
\$27.00 per case of 20 dozen quarts.
\$28.00 per case of 21 dozen quarts.
\$29.00 per case of 22 dozen quarts.
\$30.00 per case of 23 dozen quarts.
\$31.00 per case of 24 dozen quarts.
\$32.00 per case of 25 dozen quarts.
\$33.00 per case of 26 dozen quarts.
\$34.00 per case of 27 dozen quarts.
\$35.00 per case of 28 dozen quarts.
\$36.00 per case of 29 dozen quarts.
\$37.00 per case of 30 dozen quarts.
\$38.00 per case of 31 dozen quarts.
\$39.00 per case of 32 dozen quarts.
\$40.00 per case of 33 dozen quarts.
\$41.00 per case of 34 dozen quarts.
\$42.00 per case of 35 dozen quarts.
\$43.00 per case of 36 dozen quarts.
\$44.00 per case of 37 dozen quarts.
\$45.00 per case of 38 dozen quarts.
\$46.00 per case of 39 dozen quarts.
\$47.00 per case of 40 dozen quarts.
\$48.00 per case of 41 dozen quarts.
\$49.00 per case of 42 dozen quarts.
\$50.00 per case of 43 dozen quarts.
\$51.00 per case of 44 dozen quarts.
\$52.00 per case of 45 dozen quarts.
\$53.00 per case of 46 dozen quarts.
\$54.00 per case of 47 dozen quarts.
\$55.00 per case of 48 dozen quarts.
\$56.00 per case of 49 dozen quarts.
\$57.00 per case of 50 dozen quarts.
\$58.00 per case of 51 dozen quarts.
\$59.00 per case of 52 dozen quarts.
\$60.00 per case of 53 dozen quarts.
\$61.00 per case of 54 dozen quarts.
\$62.00 per case of 55 dozen quarts.
\$63.00 per case of 56 dozen quarts.
\$64.00 per case of 57 dozen quarts.
\$65.00 per case of 58 dozen quarts.
\$66.00 per case of 59 dozen quarts.
\$67.00 per case of 60 dozen quarts.
\$68.00 per case of 61 dozen quarts.
\$69.00 per case of 62 dozen quarts.
\$70.00 per case of 63 dozen quarts.
\$71.00 per case of 64 dozen quarts.
\$72.00 per case of 65 dozen quarts.
\$73.00 per case of 66 dozen quarts.
\$74.00 per case of 67 dozen quarts.
\$75.00 per case of 68 dozen quarts.
\$76.00 per case of 69 dozen quarts.
\$77.00 per case of 70 dozen quarts.
\$78.00 per case of 71 dozen quarts.
\$79.00 per case of 72 dozen quarts.
\$80.00 per case of 73 dozen quarts.
\$81.00 per case of 74 dozen quarts.
\$82.00 per case of 75 dozen quarts.
\$83.00 per case of 76 dozen quarts.
\$84.00 per case of 77 dozen quarts.
\$85.00 per case of 78 dozen quarts.
\$86.00 per case of 79 dozen quarts.
\$87.00 per case of 80 dozen quarts.
\$88.00 per case of 81 dozen quarts.
\$89.00 per case of 82 dozen quarts.
\$90.00 per case of 83 dozen quarts.
\$91.00 per case of 84 dozen quarts.
\$92.00 per case of 85 dozen quarts.
\$93.00 per case of 86 dozen quarts.
\$94.00 per case of 87 dozen quarts.
\$95.00 per case of 88 dozen quarts.
\$96.00 per case of 89 dozen quarts.
\$97.00 per case of 90 dozen quarts.
\$98.00 per case of 91 dozen quarts.
\$99.00 per case of 92 dozen quarts.
\$100.00 per case of 93 dozen quarts.

W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co.
Bank Buildings.
HONGKONG, 1st January, 1886. (71)

FOR SALE.
CHAMPAGNE, 1880, WHITE SHARK.
\$21.00 per case of 1 dozen quarts.
\$22.00 per case of 2 dozen quarts.
PAUL DUBOIS & Co.
CLARET, GRAND VIN LOUVEILLE.
\$18.00 per case of 1 dozen quarts.
\$19.00 per case of 2 dozen quarts.
\$20.00 per case of 3 dozen quarts.
\$21.00 per case of 4 dozen quarts.
\$22.00 per case of 5 dozen quarts.
\$23.00 per case of 6 dozen quarts.
\$24.00 per case of 7 dozen quarts.
\$25.00 per case of 8 dozen quarts.
\$26.00 per case of 9 dozen quarts.
\$27.00 per case of 10 dozen quarts.
\$28.00 per case of 11 dozen quarts.
\$29.00 per case of 12 dozen quarts.
\$30.00 per case of 13 dozen quarts.
\$31.00 per case of 14 dozen quarts.
\$32.00 per case of 15 dozen quarts.
\$33.00 per case of 16 dozen quarts.
\$34.00 per case of 17 dozen quarts.
\$35.00 per case of 18 dozen quarts.
\$36.00 per case of 19 dozen quarts.
\$37.00 per case of 20 dozen quarts.
\$38.00 per case of 21 dozen quarts.
\$39.00 per case of 22 dozen quarts.
\$40.00 per case of 23 dozen quarts.
\$41.00 per case of 24 dozen quarts.
\$42.00 per case of 25 dozen quarts.
\$43.00 per case of 26 dozen quarts.
\$44.00 per case of 27 dozen quarts.
\$45.00 per case of 28 dozen quarts.
\$46.00 per case of 29 dozen quarts.
\$47.00 per case of 30 dozen quarts.
\$48.00 per case of 31 dozen quarts.
\$49.00 per case of 32 dozen quarts.
\$50.00 per case of 33 dozen quarts.
\$51.00 per case of 34 dozen quarts.
\$52.00 per case of 35 dozen quarts.
\$53.00 per case of 36 dozen quarts.
\$54.00 per case of 37 dozen quarts.
\$55.00 per case of 38 dozen quarts.
\$56.00 per case of 39 dozen quarts.
\$57.00 per case of 40 dozen quarts.
\$58.00 per case of 41 dozen quarts.
\$59.00 per case of 42 dozen quarts.
\$60.00 per case of 43 dozen quarts.
\$61.00 per case of 44 dozen quarts.
\$62.00 per case of 45 dozen quarts.
\$63.00 per case of 46 dozen quarts.
\$64.00 per case of 47 dozen quarts.
\$65.00 per case of 48 dozen quarts.
\$66.00 per case of 49 dozen quarts.
\$67.00 per case of 50 dozen quarts.
\$68.00 per case of 51 dozen quarts.
\$69.00 per case of 52 dozen quarts.
\$70.00 per case of 53 dozen quarts.
\$71.00 per case of 54 dozen quarts.
\$72.00 per case of 55 dozen quarts.
\$73.00 per case of 56 dozen quarts.
\$74.00 per case of 57 dozen quarts.
\$75.00 per case of 58 dozen quarts.
\$76.00 per case of 59 dozen quarts.
\$77.00 per case of 60 dozen quarts.
\$78.00 per case of 61 dozen quarts.
\$79.00 per case of 62 dozen quarts.
\$80.00 per case of 63 dozen quarts.
\$81.00 per case of 64 dozen quarts.
\$82.00 per case of 65 dozen quarts.
\$83.00 per case of 66 dozen quarts.
\$84.00 per case of 67 dozen quarts.
\$85.00 per case of 68 dozen quarts.
\$86.00 per case of 69 dozen quarts.
\$87.00 per case of 70 dozen quarts.
\$88.00 per case of 71 dozen quarts.
\$89.00 per case of 72 dozen quarts.
\$90.00 per case of 73 dozen quarts.
\$91.00 per case of 74 dozen quarts.
\$92.00 per case of 75 dozen quarts.
\$93.00 per case of 76 dozen quarts.
\$94.00 per case of 77 dozen quarts.
\$95.00 per case of 78 dozen quarts.
\$96.00 per case of 79 dozen quarts.
\$97.00 per case of 80 dozen quarts.
\$98.00 per case of 81 dozen quarts.
\$99.00 per case of 82 dozen quarts.
\$100.00 per case of 83 dozen quarts.

AT WHOLESALE PRICES.
SACONNE'S SHERRY, PORT, CLARET, CHAMPAGNE, HOCKS, BURGUNDY, WHITE, WHISKY, ALE, STOUT, MACHINERY, LAWN MOWERS, SCALES, BICYCLES, PAINTS, OILS, VARNISH, Apply to
W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co.
Bank Buildings.
HONGKONG, 1st January, 1886. (71)

FOR SALE.
CHAMPAGNE, 1880, WHITE SHARK.
\$21.00 per case of 1 dozen quarts.
\$22.00 per case of 2 dozen quarts.
PAUL DUBOIS & Co.
CLARET, GRAND VIN LOUVEILLE.
\$18.00 per case of 1 dozen quarts.
\$19.00 per case of 2 dozen quarts.
\$20.00 per case of 3 dozen quarts.
\$21.00 per case of 4 dozen quarts.
\$22.00 per case of 5 dozen quarts.
\$23.00 per case of 6 dozen quarts.
\$24.00 per case of 7 dozen quarts.
\$25.00 per case of 8 dozen quarts.
\$26.00 per case of 9 dozen quarts.
\$27.00 per case of 10 dozen quarts.
\$28.00 per case of 11 dozen quarts.
\$29.00 per case of 12 dozen quarts.
\$30.00 per case of 13 dozen quarts.
\$31.00 per case of 14 dozen quarts.
\$32.00 per case of 15 dozen quarts.
\$33.00 per case of 16 dozen quarts.
\$34.00 per case of 17 dozen quarts.
\$35.00 per case of 18 dozen quarts.
\$36.00 per case of 19 dozen quarts.
\$37.00 per case of 20 dozen quarts.
\$38.00 per case of 21 dozen quarts.
\$39.00 per case of 22 dozen quarts.
\$40.00 per case of 23 dozen quarts.
\$41.00 per case of 24 dozen quarts.
\$42.00 per case of 25 dozen quarts.
\$43.00 per case of 26 dozen quarts.
\$44.00 per case of 27 dozen quarts.
\$45.00 per case of 28 dozen quarts.
\$46.00 per case of 29 dozen quarts.
\$47.00 per case of 30 dozen quarts.
\$48.00 per case of 31 dozen quarts.
\$49.00 per case of 32 dozen quarts.
\$50.00 per case of 33 dozen quarts.
\$51.00 per case of 34 dozen quarts.
\$52.00 per case of 35 dozen quarts.
\$53.00 per case of 36 dozen quarts.
\$54.00 per case of 37 dozen quarts.
\$55.00 per case of 38 dozen quarts.
\$56.00 per case of 39 dozen quarts.
\$57.00 per case of 40 dozen quarts.
\$58.00 per case of 41 dozen quarts.
\$59.00 per case of 42 dozen quarts.
\$60.00 per case of 43 dozen quarts.
\$61.00 per case of 44 dozen quarts.
\$62.00 per case of 45 dozen quarts.
\$63.00 per case of 46 dozen quarts.
\$64.00 per case of 47 dozen quarts.
\$65.00 per case of 48 dozen quarts.
\$66.00 per case of 49 dozen quarts.
\$67.00 per case of 50 dozen quarts.
\$68.00 per case of 51 dozen quarts.
\$69.00 per case of 52 dozen quarts.
\$70.00 per case of 53 dozen quarts.
\$71.00 per case of 54 dozen quarts.
\$72.00 per case of 55 dozen quarts.
\$73.00 per case of 56 dozen quarts.
\$74.00 per case of 57 dozen quarts.
\$75.00 per case of 58 dozen quarts.
\$76.00 per case of 59 dozen quarts.
\$77.00 per case of 60 dozen quarts.
\$78.00 per case of 61 dozen quarts.
\$79.00 per case of 62 dozen quarts.
\$80.00 per case of 63 dozen quarts.
\$81.00 per case of 64 dozen quarts.
\$

DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 1886.

WOULD A MUNICIPALITY WORK IN HONGKONG?

In considering a scheme for the formation of a municipality in Hongkong one of the first points to be decided would be the limits of the municipality—whether it would include the city of Victoria only, or take in also Kowloon and the Peak. The outlying villages would of course be left to the sole care of the Colonial Government. This preliminary point settled, there would next come the question of the readjustment of the positions of various officials whose departments would be affected.

ed by the creation of the new body. First of these would come the Surveyor-General, the Colonial Surgeon, and the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. In most of the municipalities at home the Police Force is subject to the Municipal Council, but situated as Hongkong is it would probably not be considered advisable to interfere with the present system in that department. The arrangements for extinguishing fires in the city, however, would of course naturally fall entirely within the scope of the Municipal Council, and the Fire Department would have to be taken over bodily. Then with regard to sanitation, the Municipal Council would have to take over the Inspectors of Nuisances and would require the assistance of a medical man to advise on the various points arising on the reports of these officers as well as to give advice in the drawing up of sanitary regulations. Would the Colonial Surgeon be required to undertake this work, or would it be deemed necessary to appoint another medical man? We are not aware how this difficulty is met at Singapore; according to the Directory the Nuisance Department is subject to the Municipality, but we do not find any medical officer of the Municipality retained. Presumably some arrangements exist with the Colonial Medical Department. The Singapore Municipality, however, seems to be a sort of hybrid institution with very restricted functions, and we should like to have further testimony as to its efficiency before adopting it as a model for Hongkong. On one point, certainly, it seems to have well defined authority, and that is with reference to the care of the streets within municipal limits, and it has as one of its officers a Municipal Engineer who has a department of his own quite distinct from that of the Colonial Engineer. Such a division would hardly be possible in Hongkong, for if we handed over the municipal works to a new officer, what would then be left for the Surveyor-General to do? Even the water works would belong to the Municipality, and, the duties of the Surveyor-General's department, if a Municipal Engineer's department were created, would be confined to the care of the country roads and Government buildings. The fact is the colony is too small for any such subdivision of work as this. If one of the consequences of the

creation of a municipality is to be the satisfaction of the Colony with a number of named and unnecessary officials than the evil of the new system would go far to outweigh the good. The Straits Settlements are very differently situated from Hongkong in respect of its necessities of government. They embrace a large extent of territory and several considerable towns, and municipalities for the latter are a necessary relief to the Colonial Government. Hongkong, on the other hand, consists of one considerable town, with the addition of a few, comparatively speaking, unimportant villages. To relieve the Colonial Government of the management of the municipal affairs of the town would leave it with few, albeit they might be important functions. At the same time it seems to me that the ratepayers are entitled, as we have long contended, to a more direct voice in the expenditure of the public funds. The question is whether this object might not be attained without resorting to the expediency of having a Municipal government working under a Colonial Government for the management of the affairs of a community of less than two hundred thousand persons. The place seems too small for an absolutely democratic form of Government, but a system adopted to meet all our requirements might without difficulty be devised. The formation of a Sanitary Board was step in the right direction, and affords the nucleus of all that is needed. A new name might be given to it in order to indicate duties outside purely sanitary matters, and the Board might then be consulted as to the expenditure of money on the Public Works Department, whether necessary or merely ornamental work. During the incumbency of the office by Mr. Pearce it would be unfair to that gentleman to disturb existing arrangements and less so the dignity of his office by subjecting him to the dictation of a Board which was not in existence when he received his appointment but when any new appointment is made the office—the necessity for which we may be far distant—opportunity ought to be taken to effect a change in the system in which the Public Works Department now lies on. At present, as regards public works we are subject to a most distinctly one man power, for while the Legislative Council votes lump sums it exercises little or no control over the details of the expenditure. It has been said that the best form of government is a benevolent autocrat, and we may adapt the saying to Mr. Pearce's conduct in his department; but previous Surveyor-General have not given equal satisfaction, and very possibly future ones may not. And even under Mr. Pearce's administration of the department, although there has not been any division of opinion as to the quality of his work, the necessity of particular undertakings has sometimes been called in question. We must do Mr. Pearce the justice to say that in general the public have conceived the desirability if not the necessity of work when they have seen the improvements which it has effected in the appearance

he town or the convenience it has afforded. At the same time we hold that the power wielded by the Surveyor-General is too great to be placed in the hands of any new man, and would recommend that when the next change is made in the office every work undertaken by the Surveyor-General's Department should be submitted to a Board representing the ratepayers. The Sanitary Board might have its powers and its constitution enlarged so as to deal with this matter, which would probably be found a more convenient course than the institution of a full blown municipality.

THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES.

Unless we are greatly mistaken Renter will prove to be in error in announcing that Lord STANHOPE has been appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies. The present Earl of STANHOPE is really a political nonentity; he sat in the House of Commons for a few years when Viscount MASON, but in no way distinguished himself. His brother, the Hon. EDWARD STANHOPE, who in the late Parliament sat for the Horncastle division of Lincolnshire, was also President of the Board of Trade in Lord STANBURN's last Administration and will probably prove to be the new Minister for the Colonies. He is a comparatively young man, having been born in 1840, and is generally regarded by both political parties as a promising statesman. Though not a great speaker, he is distinguished by sound common sense, and is likely to prove an energetic Minister. The Earl of DONRABRY, who is said to have been appointed Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, is an Irish peer not unknown to fame, and sits in the House of Lords as Lord KENNER. The fact of a member of the Upper House having been made Under Secretary confirms our belief that the Hon. EDWARD STANHOPE and not his brother the Earl is the new Secretary for the Colonies, since either the head of the Department or the Under Secretary must occupy a seat in the House of Commons. Mr. STANHOPE was re-elected last month by his Lincolnshire constituents without opposition, his majority in 1885 having been a pretty decisive one. The new Minister will, we trust, display a keen personal interest in the consolidation of the Colonies, and not be content to merely follow the traditions as to the governance of England's great offshoots. In dealing with the Crown Colonies, too, it is to be hoped that he will take into careful consideration those special needs and their commercial possibilities. In these days of trade depression anything that can be done to foster the growth of the dependencies and the expansion of their trade should not be neglected. It is at least some comfort to know that the new Secretary for the Colonies is not a fossil of the type of Lords DEBBY and KIMBERLEY, from whose domination we are at last happily emancipated.

THE HAIKWAN'S CUSTOMS
SERVICE.

The *Shanghai Collier* makes a very important statement, if correct. It has heard that one of the objects of Sir ROBERT HART'S visit to the south is "to investigate the working of the Hoppo's service and to propound a scheme for its amalgamation with the Foreign Customs." It is to be feared that the obstacles in the way of the fulfilment of the project—if there be such a project—will prove too great to be easily surmounted. The post of Hai-kwan or Superintendent of Chinese Customs is a great prize at the disposal of the Peking Government, and its recipient invariably makes a large fortune in his brief term of three years. He is also expected to execute various commissions—at his own cost—for the Imperial family while in Canton, and on his return to the capital, he is made to disgorge a portion of his spoil before he is permitted to pass through the Anting Gate. No doubt it would not be difficult for the Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs to show that the Hai-kwan, as competing with the Imperial Customs service, causes a greater loss to the latter than the Imperial Treasury gains by squeezing the incumbent of the post on his return to Peking. But irregular squeezing is dear to the Chinese official mind, and the loss to the Manchus of so lucrative a post as that of the Hai-kwan could not be readily made up. None the less we must cordially wish Sir ROBERT HART every success if he is really engaged in an effort to bring about the amalgamation of the Foreign and Native Customs services of Canton. It would put an end to the competition between them now existing, which causes serious loss to the Imperial Maritime Customs, and it would also, we trust, do away with the necessity for the maintenance of the fleet of cruisers which now harass the native trade and maintain a vexatious *epicrimine* over the Chinese vessels entering and leaving their ports. Nor can it be doubted that the amount of smuggling would be reduced, while many impediments to trade would be smoothed away. The varying imposts levied by the Hai-kwan upon merchandise in native craft, and the arbitrary action in many instances of his officials, help to divert trade from this port, and go to increase the price of articles of food which are imported from places on the mainland by junk. That the Hai-kwan publishes no authorized tariff, that his agents collect duties from junks from Formosa and other ports which have already paid the taxes on clearance for Hongkong, are well known facts, and it is more than suspected that some of his native employees levy unauthorized squeezes on their own account, which are only paid from dread of confiscation. If, therefore Sir ROBERT HART, whose influence we know is very potent at Peking—can persuade the mandarins, that the Imperial Treasury will benefit by the abolition of the Hai-kwan's post, much general

eral good will result, and Hongkong will reap a decided advantage by the much vexed and frequently agitated question of the so-called blockade of the Colony being laid to rest. It would be interesting to know, in this connection, what, if any, decision was arrived at on the subject by the Joint Commission. A knowledge of this would help materially to enable us to judge of the chances of the reported proposed amalgamation of the two Customs Services.

THE SILVER QUESTION

In a recent article on the Bi-metallic League the *N. C. Daily News* says:—"If the ratio was not steady when gold was being produced in greater, and silver in smaller quantities than now, it is certain that no passing of National Conventions and Acts of Parliament would make it steady when silver was being produced in larger amounts than the world wants. Clearly, bi-metallicism is not the way out of the difficulties which our abundant silver is incurring commerce with; indeed it seems certain that its adoption would only make our cases worse by and by than it is now." Here there is evidently great confusion of thought and misapprehension of fact. In the first place, the difficulties of the present monetary crisis do not arise from a superabundance of silver, but from a scarcity of gold. This has been established as clearly as any proposition can be, and any of our readers may verify it for himself by examining whether his dollar or rupee will not go as far now as it did ten or twelve years ago. There can only be one answer to

this question if we leave out of consideration a few articles of European manufacture which have not yet shared in the general fall of prices and for which the storekeepers have been compelled to raise their rates. Taking a general average, silver and commodities maintain pretty much the same ratio towards each other that they did before the great disturbance in exchange commenced, whereas almost every article of commerce has fallen in respect to gold, and in countries with a gold standard only both rents and wages are now being reduced. These are hard facts—not speculative theories. And what is the conclusion to which they point? That the stock of gold in the world is not sufficient to meet the demands made upon it. Silver has been demoralized in whole or in part by the leading European nations and the United States of America, and the very limited stock of gold is now called upon to discharge alone the functions it formerly shared with silver. Gold has consequently risen to a premium; the burden of national and private indebtedness has been increased; incomes, except those derived from funded stock are declining; and industrial enterprise is having the heart eaten out of it by the canker worm of restricted currency. What is to be the end of

it all? Mr. DEL MAR, in his answers to Lord ROSELING's Commission, referring to the eighteenth century, says—"The evils and effects of diminishing moneys manifested themselves in every country of the European world, including America; in each of them it was due to the failure of the supplies of the precious metals to keep pace with loss, waste and tear, and increasing demand to sustain prices; in nearly all of them it was followed by similar consequences; a continued and uneven fall of prices, industrial distresses, social disorders, turbulence, anarchy, revolutions, wars, and the dissolution of empires."—"Our present difficulties are enough to compel attention to the subject, without anticipating the recurrence of a movement analogous to the French Revolution, but it is only prudent to note the warnings of Socialism, which have already thrown more than one Government into alarm, and which are extending in the Near East as well as the Old World. Leaving aside, however, any far-fetched speculations on the political bearing of the question; what is to be done to meet the present commercial difficulty, the existence of which is universally admitted? If, as the *N. C. Daily News*, says, bi-metalism is not the way out of our difficulties, what is? The only other alternative is an inconvertible paper currency. It is clear the world must have a currency of some kind, and if gold is not sufficient for the purpose some other substance must be used in addition. That substance, notwithstanding our Northern contemporary, clearly ought to be silver. But then comes the question, could a stable ratio between the two metals be maintained? This is what the *N. C. Daily News* has to say on this point:—

The statement that before 1873 the bar between gold and silver kept practically uniform is one of the most common bi-metallic fallacies. It is so common that it was controverted by Mr. Giffen in his address to the Institute of Bankers in May, 1874, and he has since been quoted by every writer on the subject on the 9th instant. It was therein stated that in the case of France, the attempt to keep the ratio of the value of gold and silver always about 15 to 1 was a complete failure. "The result," as bi-metallicists themselves acknowledge, has ever been practical monometallism. In other words, instead of a gold standard, there has simply been an alternative standard. Mr. Giffen is one of the leading authorities on the subject, and he is not alone. It is a fact known to every one who knows, is a statement opposed to the views of every bi-metallicist, and is a statement which every man who has followed the history of the monetary Governments of France and other bi-metallic countries has substantiated. The theory of the bi-metallic standard is discredited by the evidence of the fact that the ratio of the value of gold and silver was ever absolutely steady.

The statement that before 1873 the bar between gold and silver kept practically uniform is incorrect. There was not absolute rigidity, but there was practical uniformity, and, if, as the *Daily News* elsewhere remarks, "the change hereof could be fluctuated over 5 per centum in a month in the old days," the average of one year told pretty well with that of another year, and did not show a continuous decline, and has been the case for the last ten years. The fluctuations that then took place can be sufficiently accounted for by circumstances altogether apart from the relative value of gold and silver. There are fluctuations in exchange between countries having the same monetary standard, and in the old days

to which our contemporary refers even the dollar and tin exchange used to show fluctuations of over 5 per cent. An isolated exchange quotation therefore proves nothing. What is required is to take the ratio in the chief monetary centres of the world, and we have tables which enable us to do so. It may be useful to give these tables showing the fluctuations for the present century down to 1873. We quote them from a letter by Mr. **GERALD MARTIN**, of H. M.

Year.	Ratio Gold to Silver.	Year.	Ratio Gold to Silver.
1800	15-63	1817	15-11
1801	15-46	1818	15-35
1802	15-26	1819	15-70
1803	15-41	1820	15-82
1804	15-41	1821	15-95
1805	15-70	1822	15-80
1806	15-52	1823	15-82
1807	15-41	1824	15-82
1808	1-08	1825	15-70
1809	15-70	1826	15-76
1810	15-77	1827	15-82
1811	15-83	1828	15-78
1812	16-11	1829	15-78
1813	16-23	1830	15-92
1814	15-69	1831	15-73
1815	15-76	1832	15-93
1816	15-29	1833	15-93

LONDON TABLE SINCE 1835 TO 1873 MOST RELIABLE				
Year.	Ratio		Ratio	
	Gold to	Silver.	Gold to	Silver.
1835	15-10	1854	15-18	
1836	15-10	1870	18-05	15-38
1837	15-11	1871	18-08	15-38
1838	15-11	1872	18-08	15-38
1839	15-11	1873	18-08	15-38
1840	15-11	1874	18-08	15-38
1841	15-11	1875	18-08	15-38
1842	15-11	1876	18-08	15-38
1843	15-11	1877	18-08	15-38
1844	15-11	1878	18-08	15-38
1845	15-11	1879	18-08	15-38
1846	15-11	1880	18-08	15-38
1847	15-11	1881	18-08	15-38
1848	15-11	1882	18-08	15-38
1849	15-11	1883	18-08	15-38
1850	15-11	1884	18-08	15-38
1851	15-11	1885	18-08	15-38
1852	15-11	1886	18-08	15-38
1853	15-11	1887	18-08	15-38
1854	15-11	1888	18-08	15-38
1855	15-11	1889	18-08	15-38
1856	15-11	1890	18-08	15-38
1857	15-11	1891	18-08	15-38
1858	15-11	1892	18-08	15-38
1859	15-11	1893	18-08	15-38
1860	15-11	1894	18-08	15-38
1861	15-11	1895	18-08	15-38
1862	15-11	1896	18-08	15-38
1863	15-11	1897	18-08	15-38
1864	15-11	1898	18-08	15-38
1865	15-11	1899	18-08	15-38
1866	15-11	1900	18-08	15-38
1867	15-11	1901	18-08	15-38
1868	15-11	1902	18-08	15-38
1869	15-11	1903	18-08	15-38
1870	15-11	1904	18-08	15-38
1871	15-11	1905	18-08	15-38
1872	15-11	1906	18-08	15-38
1873	15-11	1907	18-08	15-38
1874	15-11	1908	18-08	15-38
1875	15-11	1909	18-08	15-38
1876	15-11	1910	18-08	15-38
1877	15-11	1911	18-08	15-38
1878	15-11	1912	18-08	15-38
1879	15-11	1913	18-08	15-38
1880	15-11	1914	18-08	15-38
1881	15-11	1915	18-08	15-38
1882	15-11	1916	18-08	15-38
1883	15-11	1917	18-08	15-38
1884	15-11	1918	18-08	15-38
1885	15-11	1919	18-08	15-38
1886	15-11	1920	18-08	15-38
1887	15-11	1921	18-08	15-38
1888	15-11	1922	18-08	15-38
1889	15-11	1923	18-08	15-38
1890	15-11	1924	18-08	15-38
1891	15-11	1925	18-08	15-38
1892	15-11	1926	18-08	15-38
1893	15-11	1927	18-08	15-38
1894	15-11	1928	18-08	15-38
1895	15-11	1929	18-08	15-38
1896	15-11	1930	18-08	15-38
1897	15-11	1931	18-08	15-38
1898	15-11	1932	18-08	15-38
1899	15-11	1933	18-08	15-38
1900	15-11	1934	18-08	15-38
1901	15-11	1935	18-08	15-38
1902	15-11	1936	18-08	15-38
1903	15-11	1937	18-08	15-38
1904	15-11	1938	18-08	15-38
1905	15-11	1939	18-08	15-38
1906	15-11	1940	18-08	15-38
1907	15-11	1941	18-08	15-38
1908	15-11	1942	18-08	15-38
1909	15-11	1943	18-08	15-38

These figures show that after 1817 the greatest percentage of difference during these years was 2.9 above 15.5 and 2 below 15.5. The variation is small enough to warrant the statement that a practical uniformity prevailed. As to the standard being alternative instead of double, this is a fact of which due account is taken by the bi-metallicists, who found on its economic doctrine of compensation, by which it is contended the ratio is preserved. Thus understood a double standard when one metal rises above the ratio a demand sets in for the cheaper metal, which in turn causes a diminution in the supply of the latter and an increase is that of the former, and thus we have a automatic action preserving the ratio by means of the ordinary laws of supply and demand.—The *Daily News* overstates the *Economist's* remarks, which are in large part devoted to a confusion of Mr. GIFFEN'S theories, notwithstanding that the leading financial journal is, like the subject of its criticism, monometallic. The *Economist* admits that in France the legal ratio had no effect in regulating the exchangeable value of the two metals. Within what narrow limits this exchangeable value varied is shown by the tables we have quoted above and with international bi-metallicism the variation would practically disappear altogether.

The adoption by the Conference of British and Colonial Chambers of Commerce of a resolution declaring that the remonetization of silver would relieve the depression under which trade is now staggering is the most important event that has yet transpired in the endeavor to rehabilitate silver—more important even than the refusal of the United States Legislature to repeal the Bland Act in the latter case the silver advocates merely achieved success in a defensive movement, whereas in the former they were attacking on the offensive. The campaign has now been fairly inaugurated, and the issue will ere long be brought to a contest in Parliament.

liament. From the telegram we published on Saturday from the American papers it is difficult to gather any comprehensive idea of the debate. One thing is clear, however, namely, that the discussion turned largely on the effect the remonetisation of silver would have on India. We are told that—"The Indian members contended that the effect of the depreciation of silver must be finally to ruin the wheat and cotton industries of America and the development of India the chief wheat and cotton exporter of the world. They, therefore, protested against England aiding America to restore the value of silver at the expense of the interests of India. PAUL P. TIDWELL, an East India merchant, argued that England had other interests beside those of India, which it sorely in need of the restoration of silver, and trusted that Great India would be accepted by the meeting." It is high time that the idea that the depreciation of silver is good for India should be finally abandoned as a numbered amongst exploded fallacies. In previous articles we have endeavoured to

plain that India can really get no more on exchange for her exports than she could before the disturbance of exchange, and notes with satisfaction that the same point is made by Professor NICHOLSON in his recently published and valuable series of papers on the silver question. Professor NICHOLSON points out that whereas the fall in silver would have benefited India if the gold prices of the commodities exported by India had remained steady, these prices have fallen, as the result is that India in exchange for her exports now gets a fewer number of gold pieces, which she can exchange either for a similar quantity of silver to that she would formerly have received or for a similar quantity of other goods. Such is the effect of the Professor's argument, the soundness of which may be readily demonstrated. It is an elementary proposition in political economy that a country does not really exchange its exports for either of the precious metals, except to a very small extent, but for other goods which it requires for import, and the precious metals being used merely as mediums for the expression of values. Applying this proposition to the trade of India, will we find that? The export trade, considered as the import trade (the average export for the last ten years has been 124 million

charges of the Government and the resistance by European residents. To make up this amount, which is measured in gold, India has to send away year by year a larger quantity of produce, for which she receives no increased return. It requires little acumen to see that this cannot be a profitable movement to India. It is profitable to the bondholders in England, of course, but the profit is an inequitable one. This brings us to notice an article which appeared in Saturday night's *China Mail*. The writer contends in the first place that gold is the sole ultimate measure of value in the world, in silver using as well as in gold using countries. The latter portion of this statement is absolutely inaccurate, as throughout Asia silver is taken as the standard of value, and to the Chinaman it is gold that is dear or cheap, not silver. But is the statement true as regards our England itself? By no means. The idea of the appreciation of gold seems inconceivable to the writer in question, but we will endeavour to make it clear to him. During the last ten years land in

England has depreciated in value to the extent of twenty-five per cent. Is land then more plentiful or less valuable? If gold were the ultimate and permanent measure of value this depreciation in the value of land would be inexplicable, because land cannot increase in quantity except by infinitesimal reclamation, nor is it less productive now than formerly. The corollary therefore is that the variation is referable solely to the appreciation of gold. But, says the *China Mail* writer, there is little likelihood of England abandoning the single gold standard, because (and here he quotes from

the Nineteenth century, the rest of the world (including India presumably) is indebted to Great Britain to the extent of from £1,500,000,000 to £2,000,000,000 sterling, from which Great Britain receives an annual tribute of from £60,000,000 to £80,000,000. This brings us to the point round which the final radical decisive struggle will be waged between the bi-metallicists and the mono-metallicists. Is commerce ready to prevail? Are the trading interests of the country to be strangled in order that the bondholders may see their incomes increase? The latter remain the same as before measured in gold, it is true, but as measured in the purchasing power of gold they have increased twenty-five per cent. in ten years. If this increased burden of indebtedness fall only on other countries Great Britain might rest quiet as long other countries were content to let things go on in their

way, but Great Britain has herself a large national debt the burden of which is increased in the same proportion, as well as the private indebtedness of the individual merchant or trader, or the landlord who has a mortgage on his estate. The rents of the latter fall off as gold appreciates, but the interest on the mortgage remains the same. It is easy to see how trade must be affected in the same way, for a business which may return a very fair profit on capital of a certain amount must become less remunerative if not absolutely unprofitable if that capital is increased by twenty-five per cent. In time, no doubt, commerce would adapt itself to the new conditions, but just as the trying on of a new pair of boots is an uncomfortable process, so the period of adaptation of commerce to new conditions of values must be one of disaster and loss. This it is the object of the bi-metallicists to minimize, and which all will succumb to their efforts. There can be nothing unfair to the usurers in taking measures to prevent the further increase of their claims on the industrial, mercantile and land owning sections of the population.

THE CHINESE GIFTS TO THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The following documents have been forwarded to us for publication:—

No. 1372.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hong Kong, 7th Aug, 1886.

Sir,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor, in reference to the above, to inform you that the enclosed contains a copy of a letter and its enclosure from His Excellency Sir George Bowen, G.C.M.G., respecting the Embroidery recently presented to His Excellency the Governor of the Colonies in connection with the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and to request you to be good enough to communicate their contents to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant.

(Sgd.) FREDERICK STEWART,
Asst. Col. Secy. &c.

Wei Yuk, Esq., &c., &c.

(Copy.)

SIR GEORGE BOWEN, G.C.M.G., TO H.E. THE
OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT
Albemarle Club, Pall Mall,
London, 9th Aug, 1886.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, in original, a letter dated on the 9th, instant, from the Hon. the Governor of Hongkong, in direction of His Royal Highness the Prince

of Wales, by Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen, the Secretary of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

I request you to communicate a copy of the letter, containing the above sentiments, to His Royal Highness to the Committee of the Chinese gentleman representing the mercantile community of that nation in Hongkong.

I have, &c., G. F. BOWEN,
His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Hongkong.

Royal Commission, Colonial and Indian Exhibition,
South Kensington, S.W.

25th June, 1886.

Sir,—I am directed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to request that you will kindly convey to the Committee of the Chinese gentleman representing the Mercantile Community of Hongkong the pleasure which it is his Highness's wish to express in receiving from them the beautiful piece of embroidered silk accompanying Ode which they have presented to him: His Royal Highness is much gratified to learn from the words in which they have expressed their sincere and loyal feelings of attachment to the British Crown and the British Rule in Hongkong. It will give the Prince of Wales great pleasure to preserve this beautiful specimen of Chinese art in the collection of Oriental co-operatives which the Chinese colonists of Hongkong have given to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

PHILIP CUNLIFFE-OWEN,
Secretary to the Royal Commission,
To His Excellency Sir George F. Bowen,
G.O.M.G., Governor of Hongkong.

POLICE COURT.

10th August.

BEFORE MR. T. MACKEN

charge of embezzlement at the Gas Works.

China, clerk in the employ of the Hongkong Gas Company, was charged with embezzled sums of money amounting to the property of his employers.

A prosecution was brought by Mr. H. R. II. in the name of the Gas Works, in connection with the discovery of the embezzlement, made after an investigation of the books kept by the defendant, which entries in his books, from the 11th of January to the 30th April 1886, he admitted that the defendant had received in all of which amount he had accounted for by returning to \$3,923.50, having falsified his books and embezzled the balance of \$529.19.

On finding the defendant the latter admitted the embezzlement of the money of the Company to the sum of \$481.13.

if in the employ of the Gas Company, he said. Mr. Stuenkel, was called. He said that he had been in the ordinary course of conducting his business with the defendant, who paid him over \$100 for each amount. He stated all the while that he had no idea that the money he had so paid to the prisoner from the defendant was stolen property. The case was further argued and the court adjourned.

8-
THE ACCOMPLICES OF BELTRAN'S ROBBERY.
A CRUIZ, shopkeeper, residing at No. 1001 Broadway, was brought up in custody by Mr. Whitehead, Manager of the Bank of India, Australia, and China, who stated that he had received money from the prisoner, Beltran, and that he had been told by Beltran that the money was stolen from the Spanish Legation. He stated that he had been told by Beltran that the money was stolen from the Spanish Legation.

Mr. Wootton appeared for the prosecution, Mr. [unclear] for the defence.

Mr. [unclear] said he was only prepared at present to call sufficient evidence to justify a remand, but he should apply for it.

Mr. Perry was called to prove the arrest. He was arrested the prisoner at the request of the Whitehead at midnight on Monday, as he was visiting his family house in Wellington.

[illegible]

Q—Do you remember anything said to you by the woman about a hawk nose?
A—Yes.
Q—And the witness was about to deny that she said anything about a hawk nose?
A—Yes, I said, objected that what was said was a husband in the defendant's absence could not be evidence.
Q—Worship upheld the objection.
A—And he said he would call the woman's affidavit to prove it.
Q—Then said he was a Chinese police detective appointed by the Maкао authorities.
A—Yes, I said, he should prove by this witness that the prisoner had been lately in the company of Mrs. Beltrac, wife of the man who was shot at, Maкао.
Q—Then said I—'I know the defendant by the witness said his name. I got into his house last week; he came back on Saturday. I saw him go to Chun Ka Wai (conversers' names) I saw the prisoner go to the house of Mrs. Beltrac. He returned on Friday night. I know a man named Beltrac or 'Tam' (names).—Were you told to watch anyone?
A—Yes, I was told to watch a man; they told me to watch a small devil—a Portuguese. He has a wife over there who is called Hong Mui; she is a Portuguese. I saw the defendant in company with this woman at the house of the Portuguese. I saw her go away, but because her husband had stolen money. She has lived in several houses

[illegible]

He did not fail to mention anything about taking money to Malone.

One of the shop owners here is supposed to not know who used to be the master, but I believe the defendant is the master.

He then told who it belonged to?—I believe it belonged to Beltrami.

Callwell objected to the latter statement being admissible as evidence.

Bowles said that all the evidence has been produced at present, and that no appeal should be taken and was sworn by Mr. Beltrami that all the money which had been deposited was now deposited to, coupled with the fact that the money was taken from Malone Beltrami's wife, were sufficient, he submitted to justify the demand. He was in that it would be necessary that a formal indictment should be held in Malone here and that the case should be sent to here and those circumstances he thought he must have a demand for a week.

Callwell applied for bail.

Beltrami would grant bail with a surety of \$500 each.

Bowles—I think, under the circumstances, I must ask for a heavier bail.

Callwell—Two sureties of \$1,000 each.

Beltrami—Yes, that is all right.

THE CHINESE RENDEZVOUS CASE.

Mr. Chi was again before the court charged with having committed acts of piracy and murdering the jurisdiction of the Emperor of China.

Wilson now proceeded with the defence, and witwage being Ng Aking, the second witness on the application of the Chinese government on a similar charge to that against

[illegible]

At the request of Mr. Wilson, the Chinese witnesses for the prosecution were placed in a row before him, and the witness picked out the first, Lin Tzu, who he said, if he was a bad man, would be a stupid one. He was a bad man, crossed and excommunicated.

Cross-examined by Mr. Caldwell—Chang Chi had no boat to go fishing with; he used to walk in the streets with his gun. He was a small fish. Witness tried to earn an honest living by rearing sheep and cutting grass at his native village. He came to Hongkong with the prisoner for the sole purpose of earning a few dollars to buy a bunch of sheep. He was a stranger here, not able to read and write, and he could not say where he bought it. When asked if he could show the shop where he bought it he said he had bought it from a man who had a sign on his door, and let him have three pieces. He came all the way from Hing Fa to Hongkong to buy those three pieces of bark; he had very little capital. Whereupon the witness said he had the bark taken to the market, and said that after buying the bark the junk left Hongkong for a place called Cha Lau, and came back again.

The case was further remanded.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN SOUTH CHINA.

The Canton correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes, under date of the 27th ultimo: "There appears to be something stirring in the political atmosphere, of an unpleasant nature. The French, who have been for some time in the important Ports; the coast line defenses are being strengthened, and forts and armaments put in order; inspection of the defense works is very frequent, and precautions being taken to guard against any surprise. No doubt the late anti-missionary disturbances that have taken place in various parts of the Empire are, as it were, giving cause to suspect that an attempt will be made to force the French to enforce the payment of an indemnity for damages done. It is still recently possible for some persons that the French will give some cause for breaking the treaty, and renewing hostilities on a large scale."

mission from the Government. In other words, with the Chinese active and lightly equipped troops you may annihilate the sturdy, unwieldy, heavy troops of the enemy.

It is also suggested here that H. E. Liu Ping-shang declines to take up his new appointment as Viceroy of Szechuan. No doubt H. E. Liu has been somewhat appalled by the anti-missionary riots that have occurred in Szechuan, and he may have been hesitating on account of having lost of time to twist on account of the British Mission to Tibet.

The littlest man for the important viceroyalty of Szechuan is undoubtedly H. E. Tang Chang, Governor of Yun-nan, now languishing in a Peking prison for failing to accomplish impossibilities in Tongkin. Ex-Governor Tang has made himself a famous reputation in Szechuan, and he is now being sent to Szechuan, where he defended himself so stoutly against an tremendous host of rebels as to earn the sobriquet of *Ping-ming*. Anybody in Szechuan knows that *Ping-ming* brings reputation, although there is no doubt that the Chinese Government will hear that H. E. Chang, Viceroy of the Two Kuang, is very much annoyed at the anti-missionary manifestations that have recently taken place in Chang-king.

It is the native of this province, whose ordinary name is *Hao*, is Chao Yu-chi, who lately introduced himself as the photographer who supplied the Chinese Government with certain photographs of the Japanese soldiers during the Allied Expedition to Peking. He has consequently received an order from

Prince Ch'ian to supply the Government with a complete set of views of the Yellow River from a photographic point of view. The Chinese Government has estimated the enterprising Yü Chün-ma, who was really only the introducer of a photographer as mentioned. Notwithstanding, however, the Chinese Government has made the necessary arrangements. Yü-chün-mai endeavor to give his illustrious patron due satisfaction as early as possible. When a splendid chance will be for sellers of photographic material, the Chinese Government will be able to furnish a complete set of views of the Yellow River in a scientific manner they prove unreliable as to scale for measurement, etc. etc.

On the subject of other changes to be made on the coast in the way of increasing the defenses, the garrison of P'ing Hu, or Pescadore Islands, is to be increased, and the future Commandant-General, the former Commandant of the *Hsüeh Tai*, or Major-General, who was supposed to be equal to defending the place against all comers. The French having decided to withdraw from the Chinese Government on that head, it has now been resolved to increase the rank of the Commandant as well as the garrison of the Islands to the status of an ordinary Chinese fleet-ships. The *Hsüeh Tai* is to be reconstructed, and properly armed, the garrison well trained, and well supplied with all the necessities of war, to enable it to stand a long siege in case of another foreign war. All

This requires money, but is there money available for such work, I ask? If not, the strengthening of the garrison on paper will not suffice for anything.

THREATENED FAMINE IN KWANGSI.

The *Huipo* says that the price of rice in Kwangsi province has lately risen to more than four taels per picul, whereas, formerly, it was only about 2.044 cash per picul. The copper cash has also increased in value, recently, and one tael of silver can only be exchanged for about 1,300 cash, which is 205 cash less than usual. The people there have great difficulty to obtain rice, and the government's privation are plainly visible on their faces. It is undoubtedly the duty of the Government to devise means for the relief of the unfortunate inhabitants, but the treasury is empty, and the officials are powerless to render material assistance. Although the province has been supplied with rice shipped from Amoy, Buremah, India, Japan, and Wuhu, the price of rice is still very high, on account of the famine. The building of the railroads from Tongcin to Kwangsi would greatly diminish the miseries of the people in that province.

DEATH OF MR. RIVINGTON, OF SHANGHAI.

Our readers, and especially old residents, will regret to hear of the death of Mr. Charles Rivington, which took place at the General Hospital, Shanghai, at 1.30 a.m. on the 2nd inst. The deceased gentleman arrived in China about

DEATH OF MR. RIVINGTON, OF
SHANGHAI.

